GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3047
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ROAD ACCIDENTS
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Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road accidents and consequent fatalities reported on the National Highways and Expressways in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether as per a report of the World Health Organisation, India has been reported as having one of the highest road accidents and fatalities in the world;

(c) whether any study has been conducted on the reasons behind such large number of road accidents and fatalities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Union Government in coordination with the States to ensure the safety of commuter, pedestrians and slow moving traffic on NHs and Expressways in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a) The number of road accidents and fatalities on National Highways and Expressways for the years 2004-2007 (the latest available data) is at Annex I. The current year's data is not available.

(b) As per the World Road Statistics (WRS) 2009, brought out by the International Road Federation, (IRF) Geneva, India has reported the highest number of the persons killed in Road Accidents (114444) as per 2007 data followed by China (81649) during 2007. In so far as the number of accidents is concerned United States of America (1748435) had reported the highest number of injury due to accidents followed by Japan (832454) & India (479219).

(c) As per a study report "Road Safety in India : Challenges and Opportunities" Prepared by the University of Michigan, Transport Research Institute (UMTRI) and co-authored by Professor Dinesh Mohan from IIT, Delhi, the following six areas where counter measures need to be examined to bring about substantial improvement in road safety in India:

i. Pedestrians and other non-motorists in Urban areas.
ii. Pedestrians, other non motorists and slow vehicles on highways.
iii. Motorcycles and small cars in Urban areas.
iv. Over-involvement of trucks and buses.
v. Nighttime driving; and
vi. Wrong-way drivers on divided highways.

Safety counter measures for each of these areas, as suggested in the Report, are at Annex II.

(d) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this Ministry has taken the following steps to improve road safety for road users:

(i) Road safety is an integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.

(ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, and enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.

(iii) Provision of paved shoulders for movement of pedestrian and other slow moving vehicles.

(iv) A paved shoulder is in addition to the main carriageway and is distinctly marked by yellow/white line.

(v) Provision of caution signs as per standard Indian Road Congress (IRC) Specifications.

Apart from the above, other facilities provided include pedestrians cross walks at important sections, zebra crossings, pedestrians

under passes, over passes, service lanes for 6 Lanning Projects.